REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant submits this amendment in response to the Office Action mailed December 2, 2005. A petition for a one-month extension of the term for response to said Office Action, to and including April 2, 2006, is transmitted herewith.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-17 that are pending in the present application. Applicant has amended claims 1, 7 and 17. No new matter has been added by these claim amendments.

In the Office Action, claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Mendelson (U.S. Patent No. 6,250,931), hereinafter referred to as "Mendelson," and Sears (U.S. Patent No. 4,211,456), hereinafter referred to as "Sears." Claim 1 of the present application discloses a breakaway power supply device operatively connectable to an appliance comprising a controller for sensing and/or controlling the temperature of the appliance, a power cord with a first connector for connecting the power cord to the controller and a second connector for connecting the power cord to a power source. The first connector has at least two conductive connector outputs and each of the two conductive connector outputs has a magnet therein. There are one or more channels and/or ribs to securely hold each of the conductive connector outputs in position.

Mendelson discloses a detachable power supply apparatus for use with an appliance including a mounting panel having a ferrous contact plate attached to an outer surface, a socket plug with a magnet subassembly, wherein the plug may be removably coupled to the mounting panel by positioning the plug outer surface adjacent the mounting panel's contact plate. The magnet subassembly is designed to allow the plug to withstand a predetermined or preselected pulling force and a predetermined or preselected shearing or lateral force. (Col. 1, ln. 57 - col. 2, ln. 3).

Mendelson, however, does not disclose one or more channels and/or ribs to securely hold each of the conductive connector outputs in position, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. Mendelson describes each plate 76 having "a notch 78 formed in upper and lower surfaces thereof adapted to be engaged by projections or bosses (not shown) extending into the chamber 60 to prevent the plates 76 from sliding through the slits 56." (Col. 4, lns. 52-56). However, Mendelson does not describe channels and/or ribs to securely hold each of the conductive connector outputs in position. Nothing has been asserted in Sears as remedying this deficiency in Mendelson. In fact, Sears discloses the use of a backing plate 105 "to aid in the secure mechanical attachment of the female connector housing 103 to the supporting surface 107." (Col. 2, lns. 10-13). Sears does not describe the use of channels and/or ribs. As such, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection as to claim 1 should be withdrawn.

The rejection as to claims 2-6 should also be withdrawn, inasmuch as each of these claims depends, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Claim 7 of the present application discloses a power supply device electrically, magnetically and separably connectable to an appliance comprising a supply cord with a first connector for connecting to a controller and a second connector for connecting to a power source. The first connector has one or more conductive connector outputs, each having a magnet disposed therein. There are one or more channels and/or ribs to securely hold each of the conductive connector outputs in position.

As previously noted, Mendelson does not disclose one or more channels and/or ribs to securely hold each of the conductive connector outputs in position, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. Mendelson describes each plate 76 having "a notch 78 formed in upper and lower surfaces thereof adapted to be engaged by projections or bosses (not shown) extending into the chamber 60 to prevent the plates 76 from sliding through the slits 56." (Col. 4, lns. 52-56). However, Mendelson does not describe channels and/or ribs to securely hold each of the conductive connector outputs in position. Nothing has been asserted in Sears as remedying this deficiency in Mendelson. In fact, Sears discloses the use of a backing plate 105 "to aid in the secure mechanical attachment of the female connector housing 103 to the supporting surface 107." (Col. 2, lns. 10-13). Sears does not describe the use of channels and/or ribs. As such, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection as to claim 7 should be withdrawn.

The rejection as to claims 8-16 should also be withdrawn, inasmuch as each of these claims depends, directly or indirectly, from claim 7.

Claim 17 discloses a power supply cord comprising a first connector for connecting to a power source and a second connector, having a first plurality of conductive contacts, for connecting to a controller. The controller has a second plurality of conductive contacts and is operatively connectable to an electrical appliance. The second connector and said controller electrically and magnetically interact via an electrical and mechanical interaction between said first plurality of conductive contacts and said second plurality of conductive contacts. There are one or more channels and/or ribs to securely hold each of the conductive connector outputs in position.

As previously noted, Mendelson does not disclose one or more channels and/or ribs to securely hold each of the conductive connector outputs in position, as recited in claim 1 of the instant application. Mendelson describes each plate 76 having "a notch 78 formed in upper and lower surfaces thereof adapted to be engaged by projections or bosses (not shown) extending into the chamber 60 to prevent the plates 76 from sliding through the slits 56." (Col. 4, lns. 52-56). However, Mendelson does not describe channels and/or ribs to securely hold each of the conductive connector outputs in position. Nothing has been asserted in Sears as remedying this deficiency in Mendelson. In fact, Sears discloses the use of a backing plate 105 "to aid in the secure mechanical attachment of the female connector housing 103 to the supporting surface 107." (Col. 2, lns. 10-13). Sears does not describe the use of channels and/or ribs. As such, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection as to claim 17 should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims. Also, applicant respectfully requests that this application be passed to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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